

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**5 METHOD AND SYSTEM USING HARDWARE ASSISTANCE FOR
 TRACING INSTRUCTION DISPOSITION INFORMATION**

A method, system, apparatus, or computer program product uses a processor mechanism that generates a disposition indicator that reflects whether an instruction has been partially or fully executed by the processor, i.e., whether the results of the instruction are committed. The disposition indicator is then captured in conjunction with other instruction trace information for subsequent post-processing. For most instructions, a predicate register value controls whether an instruction is partially or fully executed; for these instructions, the disposition indicator equals the value of the predicate register. For other instructions that are not predicated or cannot be predicated, the disposition indicator is set when the instruction is executed. A series of indicators for a series of instructions may be stored in a disposition trace buffer upon the completion of each instruction; the disposition trace buffer may be located within the processor or within memory.